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South Gets Reading Bug with more Festivals

There is no better indicator of significant economic progress than the rise and rise of book festivals across the South. These symbols of intellectually curious and globally aware middle classes are also boosting economies and contributing to a bigger, more sophisticated creative economy – something that will drive future growth across many sectors.

The trend is most advanced in Asia, where according to the OECD, "large numbers of Asians are expected to become middle class in the next 10 years" (OECD Working Paper No. 285). But the rising middle class can also be found across the South – and so can the new book festivals.

According to Sanjoy Roy, managing director of New Delhi-based festival producer Teamwork Productions (www.teamworkfilms.com) , "India's rising economic growth has ensured that the great middle class is happy to travel and to spend."

"More and more Indians are taking to tourism both local and international. India's large middle-aged upper middle class and wealthy sector feeds occasions like the literature festival, ensuring attendance, making it a word of mouth must-be-seen, must-attend occasion on the social season calendar."

Recognition of the importance of this trend can be seen in the recent growth in book festivals associated with the Hay Festival (www.hayfestival.com) based in Hay-on-Wye, Wales. There are now Hay festivals in Beirut, Lebanon; Bogota and Cartagena, Colombia; Zacatecas, Mexico; Nairobi, Kenya; the Maldives; and the Indian state of Kerala.

The festivals are part of the powerful global creative economy, which is seen as the "interface between creativity, culture, economics and technology in a contemporary world dominated by images, sounds, texts and symbols" (UNCTAD). The cultural sector has been shown to be an effective way for emerging economies to leapfrog into high-growth areas in the 21st century world economy.

Roy also confirms the economic impact of book festivals. He produces India's Jaipur Literature Festival (www.jaipurliteraturefestival.org) , which attracted over 32,000 visitors this year. The hard numbers show the economic impact of the event: "Approximately 3,000 room nights were booked by visitors during this period at an average of US \$100 per night," Roy said. "Our own spend in Jaipur during this period was approximately US \$500,000. Shopping, meals and transport spend I would peg at between US \$200,000 and US \$300,000."

The OECD defines the global middle class as those living in households with daily per capita incomes of between US\$10 and US\$100. It calculates that Asia accounts for less than one-quarter of today's middle class, but says that share could double by 2020. Within a decade, "more than half of the world's middle class could be in Asia and Asian consumers could account for over 40 per cent of global middle class consumption."

The World Bank takes an even more optimistic view, seeing this burgeoning middle class' spending power as being triggered once people get out of the desperation of a subsistence existence. This means the "developing world's middle class is defined as those who are not poor when judged by the median poverty line of developing

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countries, but are still poor by US standards. The "Western middle class" is defined as those who are not poor by US standards." Although barely 80 million people in the developing world entered the Western middle class over 1990-2002, it found an extra 1.2 billion people joined the developing world's middle class. Four-fifths came from Asia, and half from China (World Bank).

With the rise of the creative sector, significant innovation will come from the global South, according to the director of the Hay Festival, Peter Florence.

"The digital revolution will be absolutely essential to developing countries," he told the Associated Press. "They are going to skip two levels of publishing industry tradition. The mobile phone is more important for writers in those societies than pen and paper is. That is a very interesting continuation of oral culture. At the same time the West has decided to start moving from audio editions to digital downloads, oral culture is just moving straight into digital culture in many places around the world."

The impact of a growing middle class can be seen in fast-growing India, which is forecast to become the largest market for English language books within a decade.

A survey by Tehelka (www.tehelka.com) found Indians favour stories about local conditions and set in the places where they live.

India's most popular current writer is Chetan Bhagat, a former investment banker. He has sold more than 3 million books in the last five years. His latest, Two States, sold a million copies in four months.

Bhagat writes about the country's aspiring middle class. His publisher, Rupa (www.rupapublications.com/Client/home.aspx), believes he appeals to a "pan-Indian, pan-age group."

For Roy, it is still too early to tell how the new Hay Kerala festival in the state capital, Thiruvananthapuram, will affect the economy of the area (the first one is from November 12 to 14, 2010).

"In the long term we hope this too becomes like Jaipur, attracting an international and national audience from outside the state," he said. "Kerala has a robust economy. What it may do is increase the total tourist influx into the city and divert some of the annual Goa traffic to its own benefit."

Roy says the Hay Festival Kerala will follow the programming pattern of other Hay festivals, combining international authors with a strong local flavour.

"India is celebrating its golden age in the creative arts and literature not just in English but across all official and subsidiary Indian languages," he said. "The depth, scope, extent and range of writing in both fiction and non-fiction is incredible."

Drawing on his success with the festival in Jaipur, Roy has advice for others in the South looking for creative economy success.

"It's all about location, location, location," he said. "A festival city like that of Cannes, Venice, Edinburgh, Avignon, Hay are special. Choose the right location, be inclusive and bring the local community on board and have the power to sustain - and in due course with a strong programming base, the festival will grow."

"Every festival will have its own learning (curve) and those who take these on board will find it easier to be successful."

Links

Thirsty-Fish: Story and Strategy: A consultancy that helps businesses build their brands based on age-old practices of storytelling.

Website: www.thirsty-fish.com

Operating since 2006, the Singapore International Story Telling Festival has competitions, readings and seminars.

Website: <http://www.bookcouncil.sg/sisf/>

The basics of story telling are answered in this webpage.

Website: www.timsheppard.co.uk

Creative Economy Report 2008. An economic and statistical assessment of creative industries world-wide as well as an overview of how developing countries can benefit from trade in creative products and services, produced by UNCTAD and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP.

Website:

http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ditc20082cer_en.pdf

Campaign for Education: Since the campaign started in 1999, 40 million more children have been able to access school.

Website: <http://www.campaignforeducation.org/>

World literacy rates by country.

Website:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_literacy_rate

Housing Innovation in South's Urban Areas

As urban populations around the South increase, the quality of city housing will be critical to the quality of life and sustainability of improvements to living standards.

Living in crowded and chaotic urban and semi-urban areas does not have to mean suffering poor quality housing. A variety of Southern architects are showing how new perspectives on common problems like cramped spaces, traffic noise, minimal green spaces and tight budgets can be addressed with clever thinking and new concepts.

The bustling and crowded Brazilian city of Sao Paulo has evolved in a chaotic fashion over the years. As Brazilian photographer Reinaldo Coser admitted to design and architecture magazine Dwell (www.dwell.com) , in many places it is "very ugly."

Sao Paulo suffers from the downside of rapid urban and semi-urban development familiar to cities across the South: traffic gridlock, pollution, noise. It's a toxic combination of factors that turns even simple tasks like buying groceries into depressingly long, stressful ordeals.

Coser's family home sits a couple hundred metres from the congested Avenida Brigadeiro Faria Lima (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avenida_Brigadeiro_Faria_Lima) , the city's unofficial main street. Yet the dwelling has been cleverly designed to make living in the centre of this modern urban hurly burly a peaceful and calming oasis. Designed by Brazilian architects Studio MK27 (<http://www.marciokogan.com.br/>) – and in keeping with the rich Brazilian modernist tradition pioneered by Oscar Niemeyer in the country's capital, Brasilia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bras%C3%ADlia>) – the home uses clever techniques to build calm into chaos.

The front and back gardens are level with the living room, creating an enormous living space that seamlessly flows from indoor to outdoor space. By using a large overhang over the gardens, even on rainy days the home can be lived in almost without walls.

Furniture in the home draws on Brazilian designers like Sergio Rodrigues (<http://www.sergiorodrigues.com.br/>) .

One of several innovative Brazilian firms, Studio MK27 was founded in the 1980s by Marcio Kogan. It has 12 architects from around the world collaborating on projects.

With a metropolitan population of around 20 million, Sao Paulo (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%A3o_Paulo) is the most populous city in the Americas, and in the Southern hemisphere.

While it is easy to point out the downsides of rapid and chaotic urban development, Coser, a professional photographer, lives and loves São Paulo nonetheless because, like so many cities across the South, it is a vibrant and dynamic place to be.

And by choosing a design for his home that is calming, he has been able to introduce balance into his family's life while benefiting from the economic opportunities of the city.

"This house has actually changed the rhythm of our lives," he told Dwell. "We eat at home more. We go to bed earlier. We wake up earlier. We sleep more."

And how has the calm helped his two daughters? One is able to play without disturbing the neighbours, and the other can quietly study her books, which was difficult when the family lived in the noise and buzz of a small two-bedroom apartment.

And - something often overlooked in development plans cooked up by economists and urban planners - the aesthetics of the house are very appealing. "Our house is so pretty," says his wife, Sophia. "Sometimes I like to just look at it for a long time."

This calm home was created out of basic need. The family needed more space with a second daughter on the way, and had become frustrated with the congestion of the city and the lack of green space. Architect Marcio Kogan was consulted for a solution.

"We wanted a place where we could just shut the door and travel," says Reinaldo.

The house is made from raw concrete and a cheap-but-tough local wood called cumaru (<http://tinyurl.com/3y8kh8v>) . By using inexpensive and low maintenance materials, the home is able to weather the environmental stresses of a polluted, tropical city with harsh sunshine.

Kogan deployed his previous experience as a filmmaker to make the home feel and look more spacious and open than it is. He calls it "looking at the world through a wide-screen lens." The design of the home is seen as a "narrative", leading the occupant from the garden to the living room, up the stairs, past bedrooms to a rooftop deck with panoramic views of the city.

Another innovative solution in São Paulo is USINA (<http://www.usinactah.org.br/>) – a finalist for the World Habitat Awards (<http://www.worldhabitatawards.org/about/?lang=00>) – which brings people together to build high-density urban housing. It has aided more than 5,000 people to build with their own labour multi-storey buildings. These new apartments are not isolated from other services, but come with community facilities, childcare facilities, professional training courses and other employment-generating activities.

It is estimated up to 15 percent of the city's population live in slums. This community organising approach is in contrast to the existing ad-hoc building of homes in the slums – often with no technical assistance – or public housing projects built by developers looking for quick profits while ignoring quality and services. USINA's approach has led to São Paulo being a pioneer in participatory housing policies.

USINA provides the technical assistance to social movements looking to build housing for the poor. The cost for the buildings is borne by a combination of public funding and the labour of the residents (working 16 hours per week per household). The cost per housing unit tends to be between US \$12,000 and US \$15,000 (with land usually donated free by public authorities).

Architectural innovation is also underway in Indonesia, another country that has experienced spurts of rapid economic growth and urbanization, and where a growing middle class is demanding a higher quality of life.

The country's capital, Jakarta (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jakarta>) , with a population over 8 million, is a mixed bag of modern skyscrapers, crumbling colonial architecture, suburbs and slums.

In the Jakarta suburb of Bekasi (population more than 2 million), Nugroho Wisnu was looking for a little more space for his family.

At first, the family encountered the downside of poorly designed housing. They bought a house which was infested with termites and was uncomfortable to live in. Frustrated, they began shopping around for something better. And they turned to Indonesian architects Djuhara + Djuhara (<http://djuhara.com/home.html>) .

"We thought that an all-steel house like the one that Mr. Djuhara had built just down the road would be termite resistant," Wisnu told Dwell.

Djuhara is a high-profile architect and chair of the Jakarta chapter of the Indonesian Institute of Architects (<http://www.iai.or.id/>) and helped to modernize the city's planning regulations.

The stereotype of young Indonesian architects is that they only work on luxury hotels. But Djuhara was designing and building suburban homes and this grabbed Wisnu's attention.

Also against stereotype, Djuhara was actually attracted by a tight budget and the small space for the house. In a crowded city, using every bit of space efficiently is critical. The existing house was torn down and Djuhara set about building a new home. The majority of the building materials were sourced within the immediate area: an easy thing to do in Jakarta since there are many vendors selling building supplies on the streets.

By buying local like this, shipping costs were eliminated from the cost of the house. The home's cost, US \$20,000, is just 2/3 of what a more conventional Indonesian home would cost.

Djuhara revelled in the job: "Ad-hocism is my religion," he told Dwell.

The split-level design of the home uses the space well. The kitchen opens up into the garden.

"Family breakfasts are great in here," says Wisnu. "And the open kitchen encourages the kids to head out into the garden and run and play."

There is also a strong environmental component to the design. Airflow cavities in the ceiling are used in the bedrooms to cool them. The house also uses heavy wooden shutters to keep the house cool during the day: "The shutters are unusual, but they are thick and sturdy," Wisnu explains.

"They really shade the master bedroom to the extent that it feels mellow and cool. They let us reduce our air-conditioning consumption, even during the height of the day."

And Djuhara also has another difference from many other architects: he refuses to patent his design.

"My friends have asked me why I don't patent my low-cost houses," he explains, "but they completely miss the point. I actually want my designs to be copied. I want Indonesian society to rethink its attitudes towards urban architecture."

Links

Building and Social Housing Foundation: The Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) is an independent research organisation that promotes sustainable development and innovation in housing through collaborative research and knowledge transfer.

Website: www.bshf.org/home.cfm

Photographer Reinaldo Coser's website.

Website: www.reinaldocoser.com.br/principal.html

Studio MK27: A Brazilian architecture firm.

Website: www.marcikogogan.com.br/

A slideshow of the Studio MK27 home and its surrounding neighbourhood.

Website: www.dwell.com/slideshows/sao-paulo-brazil-dwelling.html

A slideshow of the Indonesian home.

Website: <http://www.dwell.com/slideshows/jakarta-indonesia-dwelling.html>

Mass Design Group are architects building "social value through design." Their architectural projects focus on social goals, like their work building a hospital in Rwanda that reduces the transmission of airborne diseases.

Website: <http://www.masslab.org/home.htm>

Crowdfunding Technology Start-up Success in Africa

Technology is the future for the South, and South African start-up culture is trying to get a foothold on the African continent and forge a more supportive environment for entrepreneurs and innovators.

Modelled on the successful approaches pioneered in U.S. high-technology centres like California's Silicon Valley (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silicon_Valley) , CrowdFund (<http://www.crowdfund.co.za/>) aims to connect start-up technology companies with cash, experience and contacts, helping them get to the crucial prototype stage so that they can go big and go global.

It works like this: in order to build up a fund of cash to invest in start-ups, 1,000 people get together and invest R1,000 (US \$128) into a Crowdfund - a pool of investment cash. A board is set up and uses the pooled cash to invest in between 10 and 20 of the best start-up ideas submitted. The ideas are funded and developed into working prototypes in return for a stake in the business. Once the working prototype is up and running, traditional venture capitalists are approached for further funding and usually Crowdfund will then cash in its equity.

The concept of crowdfunding allows groups of people to use the internet to pool their money together to help support a person or a cause (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crowd_funding) . There are now many variations on the concept, with online services providing crowdfunding for artists, designers, film-makers, causes, scientists and technology pioneers.

As a model for raising funds for small businesses, the concept has a long history in poor communities across the South. Often, it can be a group of poor women pooling their resources to help each other start small businesses. Technology in the form of the internet and mobile phones has helped the concept jump to the next level, and expanded the pool of people who can support a crowdfunded idea around the world.

It is an answer to the need for so-called "angel funding" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angel_investor) : somebody with lots of cash who is willing to help a start-up entrepreneur. Crowdfund's founders felt South Africa lacked enough angel funders to meet the needs of the country's technology start-ups. This can be a big problem in countries where there is no history or culture of angel funding and searching far and wide for the "next big idea."

In April of this year, Crowdfund was able to raise R1 million (over US \$128,000) from 229 investors.

Venture capitalists (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venture_capital) – people or investment groups looking for high-growth start-ups to invest in – usually prefer to put their money into proven ideas for big, fast returns. They often lack interest in smaller ideas that may grow more slowly. It is a classic dilemma: how can an entrepreneur know if their idea will work if nobody will give them the cash to prove it?

This is a critical problem in the information age. As broadband technology spreads across Africa, the opportunities for online businesses will just grow and grow. But few will be able to benefit and African start-ups will not stand a chance against global competition if funding is not available to nurture new businesses.

Crowdfund assesses ideas and identifies skill shortfalls. The cash is used to help with the skills shortage, provide office space, bandwidth, hosting and mentorship. The funded team will also have access to legal, marketing and management experts to get through the development stage and avoid costly mistakes. The development process in stage one takes three months. The Crowdfund Board will then search for potential investors to take the start-up to stage two and a working prototype.

By this stage negotiations will take place to set the start-up off on the path to global success. They are helped with the tricky negotiation process with investors.

Apart from the start-up cash, the powerful idea behind Crowdfund is the network of support and advice that comes with it. Two of the board members are South Africans based in San Francisco, USA, and can make that crucial connection with the buzzing U.S. technology scene. Investors are asked to mentor the start-up concepts, meaning start-ups are accessing normally costly business advice.

Crowdfund tries to get a response back to potential start-ups within 48 hours (<http://digitalgarage.co.za/2010/04/12/filtering-the-applications-for-funding/>) , so, if you have a great idea, get submitting!

Links

TechMasai: Pan-African start-up news and reviews.
[Website: www.techmasai.com](http://www.techmasai.com)

Kickstarter: This new site allows US artists, journalists, entrepreneurs, explorers and others to raise the funds for their next big idea. Anyone with an idea for a new endeavour can post a description of their project on Kickstarter along with a deadline, a funding goal and incentives to encourage others to pledge financial support.
[Website: http://www.kickstarter.com/](http://www.kickstarter.com/)

AfricaUnsigned: This African alternative way of producing African music started this year. Unsigned artists record their music, funded by fans. Music fans from all over the world listen to the selection of artists, pick their favorite(s) and chip in a minimum of \$1 dollar to the recording of a professional EP. The music is then distributed to the fans who backed the artist and sold on all major online stores (incl. Amazon & iTunes).
[Website: www.AfricaUnsigned.com](http://www.AfricaUnsigned.com)

Afrinnovator: Is about telling the stories of African start-ups, African innovation, African made technology, African tech entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs. Their mission is to 'Put Africa on the Map' by covering these kinds of stories from all over Africa. As their website says, "if we don't tell our own story, who will tell it for us?"
Website: <http://afrinnovator.com/>

Kenyan Products a Global Success Story

The East African nation of Kenya has become synonymous with high-quality agricultural products, and offers lessons for other countries across the South. The country has been able to combine innovation in new technologies (it is a pioneer in mobile phone applications like m-banking), with quality control for its products like the Coffee Kenya Brand logo (<http://www.coffeeboardkenya.org/>) and ease of access to information on Kenyan products and resources via the internet – crucial to drumming up international business - like the SME Toolkit Kenya (<http://kenya.smetoolkit.org/kenya/en>) .

There are several advantages to improving standards and productivity in agricultural products in Africa. The first is regional: greater productivity and efficiency will help in reducing malnutrition and food crises that have plagued the continent for decades. Secondly, it also allows Africa to export food to other countries with fast-growing economies and boost the continent's wealth.

The dramatic changes taking place in African countries – especially rapid urbanization that has made the continent home to 25 of the world's fastest growing cities (International Institute for Environment and Development) – means there is an urgent need to increase food production and stabilize rural economies to support farming.

Kenya is considered home to one of the continent's most successful agricultural production zones, with multiple agricultural products and brands developing a solid global reputation for quality.

The country benefits from the fertile Great Rift Valley (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Rift_Valley) , where the country's biggest crops – tea and coffee – are grown.

Agriculture is a key part of Kenya's economy: 75 percent of the working population is employed in the sector. Farming sits behind tourism as the country's second biggest contributor – 20 percent - to the gross domestic product (GDP).

Kenya has had a great deal of success with fruits, vegetables and flowers (Kenyan flowers are a mainstay of many European supermarkets). Kenya has been able to achieve this by using well the 10 percent of the country's land that is suitable for farming.

Around Mount Kenya (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Kenya) , the cool and wet climate is perfect for farming tea, coffee, flowers, vegetables, corn and sisal. Other products that have been successfully grown include sugar cane, pineapple, cashew nuts, cotton, and livestock-related products – dairy goods, meat, hides and skins.

Kenya's main export markets are the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Pakistan and the United States. This agricultural export success has had a knock-on effect of reinforcing a global reputation as one of Africa's best countries for business.

In the tea market, James Finlay and Williamson have a strong reputation and sell to major supermarkets in the UK.

Another successful tea company is Kenya Tea Packers Limited (Ketepa) (<http://www.ketepa.com/>) . A Kenyan-owned company, it enhances the standard of living of the small scale tea growers of Kenya who are the bulk of its shareholders.

Kenya is one of the world's top 20 coffee producers and has a good reputation for its Arabica beans. Kenya produces 2 million bags of coffee a year and the coffee industry employs 6 million people (www.coffeeboardkenya.org/).

When it comes to exporting flowers (<http://www.kenyan-flowers.com/>) , Kenya is a global powerhouse: 38 percent of the world's exported flowers are grown there. The majority – 97 percent – are sent to the European Union. Its popular flowers include chrysanthemums, roses and carnations. This time-sensitive crop benefits from the air links of its capital, Nairobi.

Kenya even has a successful brand of beer, Tusker Lager (<http://www.tuskerlager.co.uk/>) . It is a leading export and is proudly African, with its elephant logo and motto "My beer, my country." It has a large market in the United Kingdom.

Links

Small businesses looking to develop their brand can find plenty of free advice and resources here.

[Website: www.brandingstrategyinsider.com](http://www.brandingstrategyinsider.com)

Brandchannel: The world's only online exchange about branding, packed with resources, debates and contacts to help businesses intelligently build their brand.

[Website: www.brandchannel.com](http://www.brandchannel.com)

Just Food is a web portal packed with the latest news on the global food industry and packed with events and special briefings to fill entrepreneurs in on the difficult issues and constantly shifting market demands. Website: www.just-food.com

[Website: www.AfricaUnsigned.com](http://www.AfricaUnsigned.com)

A blog with news and tips on how to use the social networking tools for business opportunities.

[Website: www.socialnetworking-weblog.com/](http://www.socialnetworking-weblog.com/)

World Vegetable Center: The World Vegetable Center is the world's leading international non-profit research and development institute committed to alleviating poverty and malnutrition in developing countries through vegetable research and development.

[Website: www.avrdc.org/](http://www.avrdc.org/)

Marketing African Leafy Vegetables: Challenges and Opportunities in the Kenyan Context
By Kennedy M. Shiundu and Ruth. K. Oniang.

[Website: http://www.ajfand.net/Issue15/PDFs/8%20Shiundu-IPGR2_8.pdf](http://www.ajfand.net/Issue15/PDFs/8%20Shiundu-IPGR2_8.pdf)

Olam: A global food supply company in 'agri-products' that got its start in Nigeria – shows how a Southern brand can grow and go global, and overcome the difficulties of cross-border trade.

[Website: www.olamonline.com](http://www.olamonline.com)

Dutch Design in Development will help Southern entrepreneurs and small enterprises to develop their brand and design identity and production processes by using experienced Dutch designers.

[Website: www.ddid.nl/english/index.html](http://www.ddid.nl/english/index.html)

Window on the World

BOOKS

State of the Field in Youth Enterprise, Employment, and Livelihoods Development

- Publisher: Making Cents International

[Website: http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org](http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org)

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- Publisher: Making Cents International

[Website: http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org](http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org)

War Games: The Story of Aid and War in Modern Times

by Linda Polman Publisher: Viking

[Website:](http://www.amazon.com)

- www.amazon.com

Losing Control: The Emerging Threats to Western Prosperity

by Stephen D King, Publisher: Yale

[Website: www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

The Global Economic Crisis: The Great Depression of the XXI Century

by Michel Chossudovsky and Andrew Gavin Marshall, Publisher: Global Research.

[Website: http://www.worldwatch.org/sow10](http://www.worldwatch.org/sow10)

Tourism and Poverty Reduction: Pathways to Prosperity

by Jonathan Mitchell and Caroline Ashley, Publisher: Earthscan

[Website: http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?TabId=92842&v=497073](http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?TabId=92842&v=497073)

The Violence of Financial Capitalism
by Christian Marazzi, Publisher: MIT Press
Website: <http://mitpress.mit.edu>

Bonfire of Illusions: The Twin Crises of the Liberal World
by Alex Callinicos, Publisher: John Wiley and Sons
Website: www.politybooks.com

In the Shadow of Slavery: Africa's Botanical Legacy in the Atlantic World
by Judith A. Carney and Richard Nicholas Rosomoff, Publisher: University of California Press
Website: <http://www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/11239.php>

Democracy and Other Neoliberal Fantasies
by Jodi Dean, Publisher: Duke University Press
Website: www.combinedacademic.co.uk

Technocapitalism: A Critical Perspective on Technological Innovation and Corporatism
by Luis Suarez-Villa, Publisher: Temple University Press
Website: www.combinedacademic.co.uk

Terrorism and the Economy: How the War on Terror is Bankrupting the World
by Loretta Napoleoni, Publisher: Seven Stories Press
Website: www.amazon.com

The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between the Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World
by Jacqueline Novogratz, Publisher: Acumen Fund
Website: <http://www.acumenfund.org/bluesweater/>

Globalization and Competition: Why Some Emergent Countries Succeed while Others Fall Behind
by Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira, Publisher: Cambridge University Press
Website: http://www.networkideas.org/book/jan2010/bk12_GACL.htm

State of the World 2010: Transforming Cultures from Consumerism to Sustainability
by Erik Assadourian & Staff, Publisher: Worldwatch Institute, 2010
Website: <http://www.worldwatch.org/sow10>

China: And the End of Poverty in Africa – Towards Mutual Benefit?
by Penny Davis, Publisher: Diakonia and the European Network on Debt and Development
Website: http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/Reports/Kinarapport_A4.pdf

PAPERS

African Poverty is Falling...Much Faster than You Think!
by Xavier Sala-i-Martin and Maxim Pinkovskiy, Publisher: The National Bureau of Economic Research.
The conventional wisdom that Africa is not reducing poverty is wrong. African poverty is falling and is falling rapidly, and if present trends continue, the poverty Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people with incomes less than one dollar a day will be achieved on time.
Website: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w15775>

The Emerging Middle Class in Developing Countries
Publisher: OECD
Website: <http://www.oecdilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmmp8lncrns-en>
(PDF - 2.09 mb)

Trends in South African Income Distribution and Poverty since the Fall of Apartheid
Publisher: OECD
Website: <http://www.oecdilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmms0t7p1ms-en>

The BRICSAM Countries and Changing World Economic Power: Scenarios to 2050
by Manmohan Agarwal, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation.
Working Paper: Shifting Global Power
Africa and Mexico has the potential to change the balance of economic power in the world. This paper analyzes this potential building on developments in these economies over the past four decades in the context of the evolution of the world economy.
Website: http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_39-web-1.pdf

The Implications of China's Ascendancy for Africa by Hany Besada

Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: Shifting Global Power

This paper examines the extent to which China's engagement with Africa has produced mutual benefits for both and whether Africa is reaping the necessary benefits required for poverty alleviation and economic development.

[Website: http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_40-web.pdf](http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_40-web.pdf)

The MDGs and Beyond: Pro-Poor Policy in a Changing World

by Andy Sumner and Claire Melamed, Publisher: International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth.

[Website: http://www.pelicanweb.org/solisustv06n03page5sumnermelamed.html](http://www.pelicanweb.org/solisustv06n03page5sumnermelamed.html)

WEB BASED ARTICLES

The Global Financial Crisis and Africa's "Immiserizing Wealth"

Research Brief, United Nations University, Number 1 2010

[Website: http://www.unu.edu/publications/briefs/policy-briefs/2010/UNU_ResearchBrief_10-01.pdf](http://www.unu.edu/publications/briefs/policy-briefs/2010/UNU_ResearchBrief_10-01.pdf)

Africa begins to make poverty history

US economists challenge conventional view that the continent is a basket case.

[Website: http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/mar/03/africa-makes-poverty-history](http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/mar/03/africa-makes-poverty-history)

Triple Crisis Blog: Global Perspectives on Finance, Development and Environment

[Website: http://triplecrisis.com/](http://triplecrisis.com/)

Where Western business sees 'risk', Chinese entrepreneurs see opportunity

by Dr Jing Gu

Dr Gu and her China based team from the China-Africa Business Council (CABC) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) have had direct access to private Chinese companies working in Africa, including 100 in-depth interviews with Chinese firms and business associations and officials in both China and Africa.

[Website: http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/where-western-business-sees-risk-chinese-entrepreneurs-see-opportunity](http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/where-western-business-sees-risk-chinese-entrepreneurs-see-opportunity)

Human Development Report 2009 Publisher: United Nations Development Programme

The Report explores how better policies towards mobility can enhance human development

[Website: www.unp.un.org](http://www.unp.un.org)

China's Rise: Challenges and Opportunities

by Leslie Chang, Publisher: Picador.

[Website: www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

When China Rules the World

by C. Fred Bergstan, Charles Freeman, Nicholas R. Lardy and Derek J. Mitchell, Publisher: Peterson Institute for International Economics

[Website: www.piie.com](http://www.piie.com)

Peoplequake: Mass Migration, Ageing Nations and the Coming Population Crash

by Fred Pearce, Publisher: Eden Project

[Website: www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

Raising the Global Floor: Dismantling the Myth That We Can't Afford Good Working Conditions for Everyone

by Jody Heyman and Alison Earle, Publisher: Stanford University Press

[Website: www.sup.org](http://www.sup.org)

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide

by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, Publisher: Knopf

[Website: www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

Gravity Shift: How Asia's New Economic Powerhouses Will Shape the 21st Century

by Wendy Dobson, Publisher: Rotman UTP

[Website: www.utpublishing.com](http://www.utpublishing.com)

Top African Banker Defends Investment from China

by Anne Seith, Publisher: Spiegel Online

[Website: http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,674887,00.html#ref=nlint](http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/0,1518,674887,00.html#ref=nlint)

Africa: Africa's Counter-Cyclical Policy Responses to the Crisis

by Louis Kasekende, Zuzana Brixova and Leonce Ndikumana, Journal of Globalization and Development, Vol. 1, Issue 1, 2010, Article 16

[Website: http://www.afdb.org](http://www.afdb.org)

Upcoming Events

June

Expo 2010 Shanghai China

Shanghai, China (1 May to 31 October 2010)

UN-HABITAT AND the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in the United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Global South Creative Economy exhibition in the UN Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010. The Global South Creative Economy exhibition will depict how the creative economy is an engine for better liveable cities with better lifestyles for all in alignment with the Shanghai World Expo 2010 theme: Better City, Better Life. Whenever these goals are achieved, people are at centre stage and involved in activities that use creativity as a main resource. The creative economy can be an important driver for economic growth and the agenda, represented at this exhibition, takes a broader view, asserting that long-term sustainable development can be achieved by effectively utilising creative assets.

Website: <http://en.expo2010.cn/>

Footprint Forum 2010: Meet the Winners of the 21st Century

Colle di Val d'Elsa, Italy (7-12 June 2010)

The Forum Roundtables are a series of fast-paced, highly interactive conversations on critical topics, designed to move the sustainability agenda forward during a time of increasing resource constraints. The aim of the sessions is to overcome barriers to action, fill gaps in knowledge, and identify strategies that inspire further sustainability investments and bring about systemic change.

Website:

http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/footprint_forum_intro/

The Corporate Social Media Summit 2010

New York City, USA (15-16 June 2010)

How to establish your internal strategy on social Media use? Boost profits and enhance the effectiveness of your marketing and communications with an integrated, accurately measured social media strategy. Scale up your social media into a comprehensive, company-wide and well-defined strategic effort. Transforming your social media strategy from an ad hoc series of messages from a few disparate employees into a well-managed, well-measured and effective plank of your communications and marketing strategy is difficult.

Website: <http://usefusocialmedia.com/>

Sustainable Ocean Summit 2010

Belfast, UK (15-17 June 2010)

Leaders from ocean industries dependent on marine space, services and resources will gather to develop cross-sectoral business action on Corporate Ocean Responsibility, as part of the global industry alliance on ocean sustainability catalyzed by the World Ocean Council. Sustainable Ocean Summit participants will include: shipping, oil and gas, fisheries, marine tourism, renewable ocean energy, shipbuilding, marine technology, ports, dredging, seabed mining, seabed cables/pipelines, and others, as well as maritime insurance, finance and legal services.

Website: www.oceanscouncil.org

5th Asia Clean Energy Forum 2010: Meeting the Technology

Transfer Challenge

Manila, Philippines (23-25 June 2010)

Organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the US Agency for International Development, with a particular focus on technology transfer and on the policy and regulatory challenges facing the expansion of clean energy.

Website: <http://www.adb.org/documents/events/2010/asia-clean-energy-forum/default.asp>

UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2010

New York, USA (24-25 June 2010)

The UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2010 will bring together leaders from all sectors to elevate the role of responsible business and investment in bringing about the needed transformation to more sustainable and inclusive markets.

Website:

http://www.unglobalcompact.org/NewsAndEvents/2010_Leaders_Summit/index.html

International Water Week: Singapore 2010

Singapore (28 June to 2 July 2010)

The Singapore International Water Week is the global platform that brings policymakers, industry leaders, experts and practitioners together to address challenges, showcase technologies, discover opportunities and celebrate achievements in the water world. Singapore International Water Week 2010, aptly themed Sustainable Cities: Clean and Affordable Water.

Website: <http://www.siww.com.sg/about-singapore-international-water-week>

London, UK (30 June 2010)

A one day conference and Exhibition dedicated to Green IT and Sustainable Computing. Hear from leading case studies on how they have integrated Green Computing into their working practices. Find out how Green IT can create competitive advantage and improve your bottom line, learn from the key stakeholders in the industry and network with leading platform and service operators.

Website: <http://www.greenenterpriseforum.com/>

July

Investing in Developing Markets – The Role of Domestic Financial Markets in Low and Middle Income Countries

London, UK (1 July 2010)

Developing the financial sector in emerging and developing markets. Now that investors are refocusing on emerging and developing markets, the time is right to discuss how to strengthen the financial sector and develop the financial markets in these economies. Investors and governments share an interest in exploring ways to improve investment flows and returns.

Website: http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/developing_markets/

The Third Subsistence Marketplaces Conference

Chicago, Illinois (9 to 11 July 2010)

The conference will focus on impactful research and commercial and social innovations for subsistence marketplaces that are ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable. Subsistence marketplaces consist of consumers and entrepreneurs who live at or near subsistence levels, and are concentrated in developing countries and regions such as Brazil, India, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Website: <http://www.business.illinois.edu/subsistence/events/conference2010.html>

UN Development Cooperation Forum

New York, USA (TBC July 2010)

The biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) is one of the principal new functions of a strengthened Economic and Social Council. Mandated to enhance the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and promote dialogue to find effective ways to support it, the DCF will be held every other year within the framework of the High-level Segment of the Council.

Website: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/develop.shtml>

TED Global 2010: And Now the Good News

Oxford, UK (12-16 July 2010)

TEDGlobal 2010, held over the course of four days in Oxford, will explore the shocking undercurrent of good news just below the surface of today's troubling headlines. Headlines remind us daily of the political, economic and environmental woes facing the planet. But behind the scenes lie an amazing array of new ideas, new science, new technology, new social and political thinking, new art and a new understanding of who we are. When you put it all together, an entirely more hopeful view of the future emerges. Many of the remarkable architects of that future -- those who are pushing the boundaries of what is known and expanding the possible -- will join us at TEDGlobal 2010, from all over the world. We will make a full announcement of the program in the months leading up to the conference.

Website: <http://conferences.ted.com/TEDGlobal2010/>

August

Have an even in August you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to developmentchallenges@googlemail.com

September

World Water Week 2010

Stockholm, Sweden (5-11 September 2010)

The Week provides a unique forum for the exchange of views and experiences between the scientific, business, policy and civic communities. It focuses on new thinking and positive action toward water-related challenges and their impact on the world's environment, health, economic and poverty reduction agendas.

Website: <http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>

Millennium Development Goals Summit

New York, USA (20-22 September 2010)

With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on world leaders to attend a summit in New York on 20-22 September 2010 to boost progress towards the MDGs. Read the Secretary-General's report, "Keeping the Promise", which serves as the basis for Member States' deliberations on an action-oriented outcome document for the Summit. It identifies successes and gaps, and lays out an agenda for 2010-2015. "Our world possesses the

knowledge and resources to achieve the MDGs," Mr. Ban says in the report. Falling short of the Goals "would be an unacceptable failure, moral and practical."

[Website: http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/)

October

Asia Microfinance Forum 2010

Colombo, Sri Lanka (12-15 October 2010)

This milestone event will bring together leading microfinance practitioners, policymakers, financiers, academics and advocates from around the world to outline their visions and priorities, and explore new ideas, opportunities and partnerships. The BWTP network actively promotes the development of microfinance in Asia through research, advocacy, policy dialogue, information sharing and capacity building.

[Website: http://www.bwtp.org/news/?p=129](http://www.bwtp.org/news/?p=129)

November

Water Investment World Africa 2010

Johannesburg, South Africa (8-11 November 2010)

The Conference is positioned to the decision makers in this sector. With over 340million people in Africa without access to water and African governments' commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, a lot needs to be accomplished in a very short time in this sector.

[Website: http://www.terrapinn.com/2010/waterza/](http://www.terrapinn.com/2010/waterza/)

December

International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development

London, UK (13-16 December 2010)

CALL FOR PAPERS: The call for papers and sessions at ICTD2010 has recently been announced - with a deadline for submissions of 2nd April 2010.

The conference is the latest in the series of highly successful international ICTD conferences held in Doha (2009), Bangalore (2007) and Berkeley (2006). It aims to provide a forum for researchers, practitioners and all those with interests in the use of information and communication technologies in development practice to meet to discuss the latest research advances in the field.

Building on the success of its predecessors, ICTD2010 will combine two days of plenary peer-reviewed paper sessions, with two days of workshops, panel sessions, discussion forums, demos and sessions in both Spanish and French. A particular feature will be the opportunity that it will provide for participatory involvement from people from a diversity of backgrounds.

ICTD2010 is being hosted by the UNESCO Chair in ICT4D and the multidisciplinary ICT4D Research Centre at Royal Holloway, University of London's magnificent campus situated only 20 minutes from London's Heathrow airport.

[Website: http://www.ictd2010.org/](http://www.ictd2010.org/)

APPLY NOW! World Habitat Awards 2010/2011:

The World Habitat Awards were established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation as part of its contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Two awards are given annually to projects from the global North as well as the South that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems. Every year an award of £10,000 is presented to each of the two winners at the annual United Nations global celebration of World Habitat Day. Travel and accommodation costs are also met for one representative of each winning project to attend the awards ceremony.

Transitions Online (TOL) is pleased to announce the launch of the 2009 TOL Photo Competition.

The topic is "20 Years After the Fall of the Iron Curtain", and TOL encourages participants to submit photographs that best capture the changes over the past 20 years in Central and Eastern Europe.

DEADLINE: December 13, 2009.

[Website: http://www.worldhabitatawards.org/enter/apply.cfm?lang=00](http://www.worldhabitatawards.org/enter/apply.cfm?lang=00)

[Website: http://www.tol.cz/look/TOL/article.tpl?IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=18&NrIssue=1&NrSection=70&NrArticle=20946](http://www.tol.cz/look/TOL/article.tpl?IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=18&NrIssue=1&NrSection=70&NrArticle=20946)

African Economic Outlook

EDUCATING AFRICA: Pan African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education 2009

Now in its third year, the EDUCATING AFRICA Pan-African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education continue to seek to identify the very best organizations which have risen to this

challenge; to highlight their models, and to reward their achievements. As well as a first prize of \$10,000 and two runners-up prizes of \$5,000, there are up to 50 awards of \$1,000 available for the best entry from every country on the continent.

DEADLINE: December 31, 2009

Website: <http://bit.ly/3rtAQ7>

Appeal for Help

MobileActive.org are updating their database of mobile applications used for health, social development, agriculture, advocacy, education, civic media, human rights, and other civil society areas. If you have or are developing a mobile application used in any area of social development, please enter it in the MobileActive database. There is currently no comprehensive database of mobile applications for social development available but they are building it with people's help.

Website: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB228VO3HV6D3>

MobileTech4SocialChange

They have also set up a Wiki with the latest notices about upcoming events around the world.

Website: <http://mobiletech4socialchange.pbworks.com/>

Training Opportunities

Ongoing

Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs

Website: www.grameen-info.org

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Courses

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), one of the USA's best known private universities, has made all 1,800 courses in its curriculum (environmental sciences, computer studies, physics...) available free on-line, using an open source system called OpenCourseWare (OCW). Each month, some 1.5 million surfers, most of them based outside the USA, follow the lessons and lectures in PDF, audio and video formats, some are also translated into French and Portuguese. MIT is working with other universities to help them set up their own OCW.

Website: ocw.mit.edu

Sustainable Tourism Criteria

The criteria focus on four areas experts recommend as the most critical aspects of sustainable tourism: maximizing tourism's social and economic benefits to local communities; reducing negative impacts on cultural heritage; reducing harm to local environments; and planning for sustainability. The GSTC Partnership is developing educational materials and technical tools to guide hotels and tour operators in implementing the criteria.

Website: www.sustainableTourismCriteria.org

Two Workshops Offered for Development Practitioners

The community-managed microfinance course deals with providing sustainable financial services for the very poor. Although MFIs are well-established, they have mostly failed to penetrate remote rural areas because the costs are too high and the demand for credit too small. Meanwhile, over the last 15 years, massive, sustainable programmes have emerged that reach this target group at very low cost, based on autonomous, small-scale savings and loan associations. Co-sponsored by the SNHU Community Economic Development Masters Program at the Open University of Tanzania and VSL Associates.

Website: <http://rs6.net>

Careers

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: www.devex.org

New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africancareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and rÃ©sumÃ© preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africacareerguidance.com

African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: www.diaspora-centre.org

Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

[Website: www.aidworkers.net](http://www.aidworkers.net)

Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

[Website: bizzlounge.com](http://bizzlounge.com)

Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

[Website: businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com](http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com)

Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

[Website: businessfightspoverty.ning.com](http://businessfightspoverty.ning.com)

Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

[Website: www.bidnetwork.org](http://www.bidnetwork.org)

Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.

[Website: www.undp-povertycentre.org](http://www.undp-povertycentre.org)

Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively – our world

[Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk](http://www.cfdnetwork.co.uk)

Development Crossing

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

[Website: www.developmentcrossing.com](http://www.developmentcrossing.com)

DevelopmentAid.org

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

[Website: www.developmentaid.org](http://www.developmentaid.org)

dgCommunities on the Development Gateway

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

[Website: topics.developmentgateway.org](http://topics.developmentgateway.org)

Diaspora African Forum

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

[Website: www.diasporaaficanforum.org](http://www.diasporaaficanforum.org)

Eldis Communities

Eldis aims to share the best in development, policy, practice and research. The Eldis Community is a free on-line community where you can meet others involved in international development and discuss the issues that are important to you.

[Website: community.eldis.org](http://community.eldis.org)

Enterprise Development Exchange

The Enterprise Development Exchange links related communities of practice to advance sustainable poverty eradication. It is facilitated by The SEEP Network through the Value Initiative.

[Website: edexchange.seepnetwork.org](http://edexchange.seepnetwork.org)

Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum

The FSN Forum is a global community of FSN practitioners. It bridges the knowledge divide among the different communities involved in FSN policies and strategies - such as academics, researchers and development practitioners - to improve cooperation and impacts; members in many countries across the world's five continents.

[Website: http://km.fao.org/fsn/](http://km.fao.org/fsn/)

Global Development Matters

Global Development Matters is designed to engage U.S. citizens and leaders in examining how rich world policies affect global poverty reduction. There is an Election '08 blog.

[Website: www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org](http://www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org)

GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development

The GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development are open to all practitioners, counterparts, research institutions, donors and interested consultants worldwide facilitating an inter agency exchange of experiences and best practices. This weekly updated website provides you with recent news and lessons learned from GTZ as well as from other development agencies and research institutions in the field of economic development. Its core is a comprehensive database. Participation in this open community is free of charge. However, registration is necessary.

[Website: Africa | Middle East and North Africa | Asia](#)

LED knowledge

This website is an online space for sharing the experiences and resources of people and organizations supporting local economic development processes at the local level. LED Knowledge is the result of a joint effort of the ILO-LED programme team based in Geneva, and the ILO training arm, the International Training Centre, based in Turin, Italy.

[Website: www.ledknowledge.org](http://www.ledknowledge.org)

Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative (Nonie)

Nonie is a network of networks for impact evaluation comprised of the DAC Evaluation Network, The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and a fourth network drawn from the regional evaluation associations. Its purpose is to foster a program of impact evaluation activities based on a common understanding of the meaning of impact evaluation and approaches to conducting impact evaluation.

[Website: www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/](http://www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/)

TakingITGlobal.org

TakingITGlobal.org is an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and global communities.

[Website: profiles.takingitglobal.org](http://profiles.takingitglobal.org)

XING Group Microfinance Industry

In this new XING Group, microfinance professionals from all over the globe link and discuss topics of interest. Use this forum to discuss financial technology, find employment, identify training opportunities and events, and share knowledge resources with fellow members of the microfinance industry. XING is an online networking tool to manage all personal contacts and to find interesting new business contacts. It's amazing how quickly it facilitates contact with key people.

[Website: www.xing.com/](http://www.xing.com/)

AfDevinfo - African Development Information Service

AfDevinfo tracks the mechanics of political and economic development across Sub Saharan Africa. They draw together a diverse range of publicly available data and present it as an accessible and ever expanding online database.

[Website: www.afdevinfo.com](http://www.afdevinfo.com)

Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM)

The Growing Inclusive Markets Initiative has created a set of data, information and analytical products that will increase understanding of the markets of the poor, including existing opportunities and challenges.

[Website: www.growinginclusivemarkets.org](http://www.growinginclusivemarkets.org)

Fellowship Opportunities

Africa Entrepreneurship Platform

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

[Website: www.sacca.biz](http://www.sacca.biz)

Piramal Foundation in India

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

[Website: www.piramalprize.org/](http://www.piramalprize.org/)

The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton

Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

[Website: pioneersofprosperity.org](http://pioneersofprosperity.org)

African Writers Fund

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

[Website: www.trustafrika.org](http://www.trustafrika.org)

Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan.

Email: namstct@vsnl.com

[Website: www.scidev.net](http://www.scidev.net)

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

[Website: www.devex.org](http://www.devex.org)

Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of Â£2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the "world's first global youth development competition".

[Website: More Information](#)

US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design

AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250,000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

[Website: www.openarchitecturenetwork.org](http://www.openarchitecturenetwork.org)

PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The [University of Ghana](http://www.ug.edu.gh) has been awarded a project support grant by the [Alliance for a Green Revolution](#) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

[Website: www.acci.org.za](http://www.acci.org.za)

Institute of Social Studies in The Hague

A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, www.focuss.info is a search engine for indexing and social book marking online resources in international development.

[Website: http://www.focuss.info/](http://www.focuss.info/)

Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition

A social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

[Website: http://genesis.iitm.ac.in](http://genesis.iitm.ac.in)

Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund

They are looking for social entrepreneurs developing new solutions to social problems. They are accepting applications for their 2008 fellowships (two-year funding of up to US \$90,000 for 20 entrepreneurs).

[Website: www.echoinggreen.org](http://www.echoinggreen.org)

Funding

UNESCO: International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation

The International Centre for South-South Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation was inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur in May 2008. The centre functions under the auspices of UNESCO. It facilitates the integration of a developmental approach into national science and technology and innovation policies, and provides policy advice. In parallel to organizing capacity-building and the exchange of experience and best practices, the centre conducts research and tackles specific problems in science, technology and innovation policy-making in developing countries.

[Website: www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)

Funding - Google.org

While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.

[Website: www.google.org](http://www.google.org)

Challenge InnoCentive

A challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable.

Website: <http://www.innocentive.com>

Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship

Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: <http://www.socialedge.org>

Job Opportunities

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)



Please feel free to send your comments, feedback and/or suggestions to Cosmas Gitta [cosmas.gitta@undp.org] Chief, Division for Policy, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation